THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 20. SATURDAY, JULY 31ST, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

LIST OF MEETINGS.

Friday, July 30th.

Piggott St., 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake.
Beckton Rd., 8 p.m., Dr. Tchaykovsky.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Thomson.
Ford Rd., 8 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.
Knapp Rd., 9 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.
Burdett Rd., 9·30 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.

Saturday, July 31st.

Well St. and Mornington Rd., 8 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.
Lesbia Rd., 9 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.
Dalston Lane, 9.30 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.
Chrisp St. and Grundy St., 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake; Mr. Lynch.
Dock Gates, 9 p.m., Mrs. Drake; Mr. Lynch.

Wednesday, August 4th.

Chrisp St., 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake.
Ford Rd., 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Thursday, August 5th.

175 Dalston Lane, 8 p.m., Mrs. Schlette.
124 Barking Rd., 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
53 St. Leonard's St., 8 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.
Abbott's Rd. and Brunswick Rd., 9 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.
Chrisp St. and Grundy St., 9.30 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.

Friday, August 6th.

Piggott St., 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Beckton Rd., 8 p.m., Miss O'Callaghan, Mr. Watts.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mr. C. Gray.

Saturday, August 7th.

Rathbone St., 8 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.
"Boleyn," 9 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.

Sunday, August 8th.

Victoria Park, 3.30 p.m., Miss Pankhurst. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Dock Gates, 8 p.m., Miss Pankhurst.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 8 to 10 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Mondays and Fridays 8 to 10. p.m.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the arble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The season of infantile diarrhœa will soon be upon us, when babies, especially babies of necessitous mothers, who are themselves undernourished, and cannot afford to buy good fresh milk, will be falling dangerously ill.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, will become more frequent and more urgent as the summer advances. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

Will you send us a maternity outfit?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS.

High prices increase the need for our restaurants. At the same time the high prices make it harder and harder for us to pay our bills. Will you help?

OUR FACTORY.

Always buy your toys and shoes from the E.L.F.S., because we pay a living wage. Latest price lists may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THE HOPE OF THE WORLD LIES WITH THE CHILDREN.

HELP TO SAVE THE BABIES!

TREASURER'S APPEAL.

The holiday season is upon us, and for some at least it will be possible to spend a few weeks in changed surroundings, to seek nature's healing for our bruised spirits, ere we return once again to a full realisation of this ceaseless horror of warfare—not only of the "War to end War," but of that other war too, that some forget more easily each summer, because it hardly touches their nearest and dearest, at least not in any great numbers.

What of the war against disease and its fellows, which cost us more lives each year than our twelve months fighting at the front? Annually we lose 1/6 of our gift of babies, (and far more than this are maimed but survive wounded, many of them for life), and yet another 1/6 we lose before they reach their 15th birthday?

Shall we not make some special effort—at least those of us who can rest awhile—to ensure that those babies under our care in the East End shall not want for their daily milk and food and attention, while we try to forget that hungry mothers and wasting babies exist even while we play? We send out each week a copy of the DREADNOUGHT to our 1,000 subscribers. I beg of them—each one who can—to institute some special collecting box on their mantelpiece or breakfast-table for the "*August Milk Fund*" for our babies. If each subscriber put in but 1d. a day, we shall have £125 at the end of the month to help us along—a very welcome gift.

We are very short, too, of clothing, and in many a home where the school wardrobe is being overhauled, perhaps there may be some welcome garment (or boots and shoes) to be sent to us at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

I shall not cease in my efforts to secure fresh subscribers, but I urge our existing ones to go on helping the babies, speaking to their friends of our work, passing on to them the DREADNOUGHT, and securing new readers to send us 4s. 4d., the annual subscription for the paper.

It is the regular ceaseless flow of supply that is so sorely needed, and the lack of which gives many an anxious hour to those who feel they cannot turn away the babies "because there is no milk money this week!"

Send 4s. 4d. to become a Subscriber to the "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT."

We hope to send out to each subscriber a special collecting box, but if our manufacturer fails us, we earnestly hope father's cast off cigarette box, or the children's chocolate box, or even a vase on the mantelpiece may be pressed into the service.

I would like to thank very gratefully all who have supported us so splendidly—over £3,000 have come in since War broke out, enabling us to bring help and comfort to the most sorely distressed in our midst; and, like Oliver Twist, while thanking you, I ask for more in the name of the little ones, for "the hope of the world lies with the children."

BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY, M.D.

Langham House, Harrow.

Some of our Poplar Babies in the Garden at 20 Railway Street.

VISIT FROM AN AUSTRALIAN MINISTER.

Dear Madam,

Having read Dr. Tchaykovsky's interesting letter in the *Times* upon the preservation of infant life, I resolved to visit the E.L.F.S. Mother's Arms in the Old Ford Road, Bow.

Coming from a State, where we are dealing fairly successfully with the same problem as your own, and having a small part in the shaping of some of the experiments, I am anxious to see what is being done here.

Your very courteous and cheery manageress showed my wife and self over the building. Everything about the place was clean and well conducted, although it was evident you are in need of funds. The little mites were well cared for and perfectly happy.

In view of the deplorable infant mortality amongst the poor, I am astounded that something more is not accomplished, or attempted in the direction in which you are now working. There appears to me a vital need of something more being done. The immense number of lives lost by the war, and 100,000 babies dying annually from preventable disease, is a record the nation cannot stand, and continue to exist.

Whilst so many millions of pounds are being spent to destroy human life, surely a little more may be spared to save it. I should judge that a few thousands spent in establishing other institutions, in extend- and improving your own, and experimenting in other directions, would return greater interest to the country than 4½ per cent. War Loan Bonds.

The stories of poor little children locked up all day whilst the mother is out working, are very pitiful in such a wealthy city as London. We shall need all the kiddies soon. We cannot begin too early to save them.

In Western Australia, the Government subsidises a home such as yours by an annual grant.

We also pay 7s. per week per child under the age of fourteen years, to parents who are absolutely unable to maintain their children.

We have established Government dairies to ensure a supply of pure milk to Government institutions, such as hospitals, insane asylums, goals, etc., in the metropolitan area.

Three years ago, the medical officer in charge of the children's hospital, reported that children were dying like flies, in consequence of impure milk. Last year the death rate of our State was the lowest in the world where statistics are recorded.

The fatuity of declaiming against a falling birthrate, whilst we allow a big percentage of those born, to die, from insufficient care and attention, must be apparent. There is no doubt a margin in regard to parental responsibility, that must not be overstepped, but much more can, and ought to be done.

J. E. DODD.

(Honorary Minister in charge Public Health, Western Australia.)

In spite of the work that is being done to care for Poplar babies, the death rate in the Borough of children under one year went up in 1914 to 117·21 per thousand as against 112·90 in 1913.

The increased death rate of 1914 was of course largely due to the hardships caused by the rise in the cost of living that has taken place since the war.

This means that we must work still harder to safeguard baby lives.

LLOYD GEORGE AGREES TO SEE THE EAST END WOMEN.

Mr. Lloyd George has at last agreed to receive the East London Deputation.

On Monday, July 26th, repeated letters having brought no definite promise of an interview, we sent a letter by hand to say that our elected Deputation of nine women would wait upon him at the Munitions' Office, 6 Whitehall Gardens, at 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

On arriving at the Munitions' Office next morning we found the door wide open and people passing freely in and out. Some of the officials were in uniform, embroidered with a Crown and "M.M." in gold letters.

We told these officials that we were the East London Deputation, come to see Mr. Lloyd George, and they brought up to us a gentleman in a navy-blue suit, wearing a red rose.

We told this gentleman what we had come for, but he seemed to know nothing whatever about us, and tried to persuade us that we were doing something very astonishing indeed in trying to seek an interview with Mr. Lloyd George.

However, we told him that our business was urgent and important, and that we absolutely must, either see Mr. Lloyd George that day, or get him to make an appointment for an early date.

At last the gentleman in navy-blue consented to carry our message to Mr. Lloyd George's private secretary, and brought a verbal answer that Mr. Lloyd George was attending a

(Continued on page 291, col. 1).

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

EAST LONDON BRANCHES.

BOW BRANCH meets at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. M. Lansbury.

BROMLEY BRANCH meets at 53 St. Leonard's Street, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. McCheyne.

POPLAR BRANCH meets at 20 Railway Street, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Drake.

WEST HAM BRANCH meets at 55 Fife Road, 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Millo.

EAST HAM BRANCH meets at Essex Hall, Wakefield Street, 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Thompson.

WALTHAMSTOW BRANCH meets at William Morris Hall, 3 p.m., every Thursday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Bush.

The

Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 1787.

AGENTS:

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

THE COAL ACT.

There has been a hard fight in Parliament over the Coal Bill which has just passed the House of Commons,

We believe that the Government introduced the Bill because of the coal strike, in order that their action might not seem to be one-sided when they placed the coal industry under the Munitions Act and ordered the miners back to work on pain of fine or imprisonment. When the miners proved themselves so strong that their demands had to be conceded, and the coal owners were obliged to give way; the Government proceeded to act as the advocate of the mine owners and to resist every effort to strengthen the very weak Bill that had been introduced.

A serious defect in the Bill, was that it was not to apply to coal contracts entered into before the passing of the Act, though most of the large consumers had just made new contracts in June. Amendments to make the Act apply to existing contracts, were resisted by the President of the Board of Trade, until it was evident that if the matter went to a vote, the Government would be beaten.

Then, tardily at the eleventh hour, Mr. Runciman brought forward a compromise clause, which provides that existing contracts for coal to be used by local authorities, or for gas, water, or electrical undertakings, or for domestic consumption shall come under the Act, if the coal is to be delivered after next November and the contracts were made since April 1st.

In this matter, and throughout the discussion on the Bill, Sir Arthur Markham, although he is himself a coal-owner, fought manfully, and with a most disinterested spirit for the interests of the consumer. Such action as his, is, unfortunately, less common than it should be in Parliamentary life.

There was great contention over the increased price that may be charged for coal at the pit's mouth. The Coal Bill fixed 4s. a ton increase since the war, yet the Departmental Committee, which sat recently, was of opinion that the increased cost of coal ought only to be 3s. a ton, including retail charges and distribution. The 4s. increase allowed by the Coal Act does not include the increase in merchants' charges, which certain London merchants have agreed shall be 2s.

Mr. Anderson pointed out that, to London buyers, the increase will be at least 6s. a ton, and he stated that for certain classes of coal, the prices would actually be raised by the present maximum. Best Silkstone he said was in London 29s. in January 1914; 32s. in January 1915; and would be 35s. in January 1916. Best Derbyshire was in London 28s. in January 1914; 31s. in January 1915; and would be 34s. in Janunry 1916. To those who do not understand what an increased price of 4s. per ton may mean to coal owners, Sir A. Markham's statement that 8d. a ton is the average gross profit made by coal owners, and that 1s. a ton brings in a substantial return is most illuminating. One must realise, of course, that immense numbers of tons are being dealt with. Mr. J. Samuel stated that the increased cost of 4s. a ton would cost the consuming public £37,000,000 a year.

Mr. W. C. Anderson said that he thought 1s. a ton increase in price would be quite enough, but moved an amendment that it should be 3s. instead of 4s. Mr. Tim Healy urged that this should be carried, for even if some coal owners should lose something by it, "they should allow themselves to suffer in the same way that every other man in the community suffers." But only 33 Members voted for the amendment, and 77 against.

Later on, the clause by which the Board of Trade will give certain firms permission to charge more than 4s. extra, if they can show that their expenses are greater, came to be discussed. Then it was moved that in cases where the increased expense is small, the Board of Trade may order that the increased price may be less than 4s. But the Government resisted this proposal and it was defeated.

No coal for use on ships is to come under the limitations imposed by the bill. The Government was asked to remedy this defect, but refused to do so. Mr. Runciman, who, throughout the debate, put forward the most frivolous excuses, gave as a reason for this, that the export trade is so important that the Government does not wish to discourage it in any way by limiting the profits that shipowners can earn by it; and if the Government were to limit the price of coal for use on ships, to be fair to the coal owners, they must also limit the shipowner's profits.

We have been told again and again, by Mr. Runciman and others, that one of the principal causes of the increase in the cost of our food is the high price charged for bringing it to us by sea, and we have been told that the chief cause of increased freight charges is the higher cost of coal!

What does this mean? Partly, we think, that Mr. Runciman and the Government like to leave an excuse for freight charges remaining high; partly that in this, as in every other point raised by the Bill, their sympathies are with the coal owners.

Incidentally Mr. Runciman refused an amendment by Sir Arthur Markham, that the Admiralty and other Government departments, as well as the Allied Governments, should have the benefit of the limitations imposed by the Act.

It seems that either the Government does not care how much more public money is spent than need be, or the Act is not very valuable!

But there are many other serious flaws in the Act. It provides that a coalowner may not charge more per ton for any particular kind of coal than 4s. more than he sold it for "on a corresponding date," in "similar quantities" and "under similar conditions," in 1914.

It is rather difficult at first sight to realise exactly what that means, but it works out in this way:

Nothing will be done at all until a customer thinks that he has been charged too much. Then he must look up his last year's coal bill and see whether he is now being charged the same amount for the same quality and quantity of coal by the same firm. Suppose he now buys from another colliery, or is buying a different kind of coal or a larger or smaller quantity, he will have nothing to guide him. But if he is persuaded that he is paying too much, he can appeal to the Board of Trade, and the Board of Trade will have power to call for the books, and to prosecute the coal owner if it thinks fit.

The coal owner will meanwhile try to prove that this coal is of a different sort, or different quantity, or is being sold under different conditions from last year's coal, so that as everyone can see, there will be a great deal of business for the lawyers, especially as a coal owner may not be fined if he can show that he had "reasonable grounds for believing that he was not committing an offence."

Therefore it is only in cases where the customer makes a complaint, and the Board of Trade gives ear to the grievance, that an action can be taken against a coal owner, and even then it is very easy for the coal owner to get off. The Bill as first drafted only gave the power of complaint to the Board of Trade to the customer who buys direct from the coal owner, but an amendment was forced on the Government giving power to those who buy from the original buyer to hand on the complaint.

We have got to remember that a real shortage of coal is expected. When that time comes, merchants will be glad to get coal when and how they can. If they are in a hurry, they will pay what is asked, and charge the extra price to the consumer, in most cases not troubling to enter into controversy with the Board of Trade.

In any case these provisions do not touch the retail buyer, though they may protect, to a certain extent, the local authority, the gas company, and the coal merchant. For the poor woman in her home there is no redress.

Mr. Dickinson moved amendments fixing a flat rate for coal in London, and maximum retail prices of coal sold in smaller quantities than two cwt., but these proposals were opposed by the Government, and were lost.

Mr. Pearce said that this was a sex question, and urged that the Board of Trade should call in women to help in arranging machinery for keeping down coal prices.

Members of Parliament laughed, but though we do not know the sense in which Mr. Pearce was speaking, we must echo that this is largely a woman's question, and that it is a woman's battle that must be fought.

The men in vast masses are going into the Army, where with all the perils that they have to face, they are relieved from the responsibility of earning money, and are abundantly fed and clothed. A large proportion of them have come from homes where 5 lbs. of meat a week sufficed for the family, and now the man himself has a pound of meat a day.

The men's hearts are bound up in the struggle of their families, but it is the women and children who feel the pinch of rising food and fuel prices, and have to face the struggle they entail.

It is the same in the industrial field. More and more men are going to the war, more and more women take their places in the labour market and so the battle to maintain, and improve if possible, the old conditions largely rests with them.

The burdens of war are falling and threatening to fall, ever more heavily on the workers, and the workers are told that they must not protest, for every class must make sacrifices for the war.

But to the poor, every sacrifice is a step on the road of starvation—to the rich it is only doing without some little luxury.

So we must work harder and the next business is the Great Demonstration on August 15th, Registration Day.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

In the House of Commons, on July 20th, Mr. Neville asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he will introduce a Bill to restrict freights charged for the coastwise carriage of coal within the United Kingdom? Mr. Pretyman replied "not at present." Then Sir A. Markham stated that the Government was charging 200 to 300 per cent. more for such freights than before the War! He asked: "Does the Government consider it a good example to charge such freights for coal carried from the north of England to London?" No reply was given!

The Naval and Military Pensions Bill has been thrown out by the House of Lords. We shall publish a special article dealing with the situation next week.

BRITISH ALIENS!

Grace Mary Jungk, an Englishwoman, who married a German the day before the war, was fined £5 or a month's imprisonment for going to Gravesend, which is a prohibited area. The accused stated that she had lost her work on account of her married name, and had therefore returned to her English parents at Gravesend; she could not afford to pay the fine and therefore elected to go to prison. It is reported that some Englishmen are now making a living by marrying aliens for bribes—surely a more serious crime, than that of a British woman going home to her parents.

Mrs. Jungk has since been released, as her fine has been paid. Several offers to pay it were received from titled ladies and *German prisoners!*

Jessie Klose, the English wife of a German whom she has not seen, she states, for the last ten years, was brought from remand before the magistrate at Marylebone, because she had broken a police-station window in order to call attention to the fact that being obliged to register as an alien, she was prevented from obtaining employment as a dressmaker.

Mr. Denman sentenced her to *twenty-one days imprisonment* and recommended deportation.

"But I am not a German," she protested. "I have never been in Germany and cannot speak the language." She looked pale and distressed and caught the rails of the dock to save herself from falling.

The magistrate therefore withdrew the recommendation for deportation.

But what a scandal it is that British women should be so treated in their native land! Cannot Parliament be made to realise the cruel injustice that is being done to these unfortunate women? Can we not get an amendment of the law?

The case of a shop girl, Ivy Mooney, who shot at a man named Goldschmidt, with whom she had lived, because he had told her that he did not want to have any more to do with her, was heard at the Central Criminal Court. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty," and the prisoner was discharged. Mr. Justice Avory remarking that Goldschmidt's behaviour was "just what could be expected from a man of his original nationality." We realise that in almost every case of irregular sexual relations, it is the woman alone who is made to pay. We recall the case of Julia Decies, who, on March 4th, 1914, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for a similar offence.

Mr. Justice Avory, in the Goldschmidt case, has created a precedent which enlightened women will expect to see followed in many others. We cannot assent to the view that a woman has only a right to demand fair dealing from a German, and that an Englishman should be allowed to betray and desert a woman, and yet go scot-free.

The Federation of Civil Service Women Clerks has addressed a memorial to the Prime Minister, urging the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry:—

For the purpose of adjusting the existing inequalities in pay received by men and women doing similar work.

We hope that the women will be successful in their demand.

A strike is reported in Burmantoft's clothing factory, Leeds, because women have been brought into the cutting rooms at one-third the wages now paid to men. There are about 350 workers employed on military and civil clothing.

(Continued from front page.)

Cabinet Meeting at No. 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister's house.

We said that we would go across to Downing Street and see whether we could see Mr. Lloyd George there, and if not we would come back and wait till the Cabinet Meeting was over.

The gentleman in blue did not want us to come back, but we said we felt sure that that would be best.

At No. 10 Downing Street we were told that the Cabinet was sitting and could not be disturbed, and that the meeting might last two hours. We were advised by the hall porter and one of the policemen, who always seem to be on the door-step whenever one goes to the Prime Minister's house, that it would be best to wait at the Munitions' Office. We said that that was just what we had thought ourselves.

At one o'clock we returned to the Munitions' Office. The gentleman in blue was not at all pleased to see us, and said that it was no use waiting, and that, indeed, we could not do so, as there was no waiting room.

We said that we did not mind standing in the hall, and that we thought that it would be best to wait. We found a chair for Mrs. Cressall, because she had brought with her her baby, Charlie, who is very fat and heavy, and for some time we all stood round her in a group, taking up as little room as possible, as the passage way was not very wide.

A lady had come with a little girl to ask for Munition work, and when it had been explained to her that there was no work for her, we were able to take two more chairs, and so were fairly comfortable, as we took turns to sit down. Charlie kept us amused by smiling at us and offering us his biscuit, he even fascinated the gentleman in blue from time to time.

But the gentleman in blue kept working himself up into a state of irritation. First he would tell us that it was best, from our point of view, that we should go away, and then, when we did not take his advice, he would order us to go.

He said that no one could communicate with Mr. Lloyd George, but we said that we felt sure that it could be done after the Cabinet Meeting. He said: "We cannot do it." We said: "You would, if the Germans were coming."

We explained that several members of the Deputation were losing money they could ill afford, for every moment that they waited, but that they were prepared to wait, because our business was so urgent.

More than an hour passed. We saw the young women clerks, and the men clerks go out to their lunch and return to work.

The gentleman in blue kept hovering around us, always ready to enter into an argument.

At last he brought Miss Sylvia Pankhurst a letter from the private secretary, saying that Mr. Lloyd George was too busy to see the Deputation, but that if we would put our statements in writing he would consider them.

Miss Pankhurst asked the gentleman in blue to let her write an answer, and he carefully tore off half a sheet of note paper for her.

She then wrote that we were glad to get an answer at last, but that the answer was not satisfactory to us, because a personal interview is always best, and especially so when the people who wish to express their views are not accustomed to making long statements in writing, and that we felt it our duty to wait until a promise of a personal interview had been received.

The gentleman in blue did not want to take the letter to the private secretary. We insisted that this must be done. He was very angry, but, after a good deal of argument, he agreed to do as we asked.

He came back with a verbal message that if we would go away, the secretary would ask Mr. Lloyd George to see us another day.

We said we should like a letter from the secretary, as we were not quite sure how much the message meant; moreover, Mr. Gulland had before promised to see whether an interview could be arranged and nothing had happened.

The gentleman in blue was very angry. He said he *would not* take our message back, and that he certainly would send for someone to turn us out by force, if we did not go at once.

But at last he saw that it was best to take our message, and soon came back with a very polite letter for Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, saying that our note repeating a request for a personal interview with Mr. Lloyd George had just been received, and that, though it would not be possible to submit our request for some little time, it would be done at the first opportunity, and that, if Mr. Lloyd George would agree to grant the interview, the secretary would write making an appointment.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst at once wrote back, sending many thanks, and saying that we would wait for Mr. Lloyd George's reply.

The gentleman in blue read the letter, and was again very angry, but after a short argument, he rushed upstairs with the letter, and then rushed down again to say that there was no answer. We thanked him and said we were not expecting an answer for a little while.

The gentleman in blue became yet more threatening. He would not pay any attention to the other members of the Deputation, but kept saying to Miss Pankhurst: "Then you refuse to go."

Miss Pankhurst always replied: "We are waiting for the answer that the secretary has promised us, and we think that it will come very soon."

The gentleman in blue said: "I shall not speak to you again," and Miss Pankhurst probably wished he would not, for she seemed very much to prefer talking to Charlie, who was smiling all the time.

Meanwhile, two members of the Deputation went to the door to look out, and someone there told them that the Cabinet had risen, so we began to expect that we should soon get our reply.

At last one of Mr. Lloyd George's secretaries, who told us his name was Davies, came down to tell us that he had received a telephone message from Mr. Lloyd George to say that he would receive the Deputation, either on Friday, or one day in the early part of next week. He was not quite sure which day would be best. The secretary said he hoped that we would not mind not having seen Mr. Lloyd George that day.

We said that either Friday or next week would suit us very well, and that now the matter was settled we were quite satisfied.

We had thanked the secretary and were just going, when he came hurrying after us to say that he had arranged for some tea to be made for us, and to ask whether we would stay for it.

We thought it so thoughtful of him to arrange this, that we thanked him and said we should like it very much.

"We have a room here," he said, and one of the attendants opened a door close to the entrance. Inside and down two steps led to a little kitchen which seemed to belong to the porter.

It was a bare little place. Indeed, if it had not been War time, we should have been quite surprised to think that the Munitions' Office had no other place in which to entertain its guests. But as it is, of course, no one would be surprised to take tea in a kitchen, or even a wash-house.

We are glad to see that, at least, in the matter of hospitality, the Ministry of Munitions realises the virtue of the simple life.

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage held a most successful demonstration in the Meadows, Edinburgh, on Sunday, July 18th, to commemorate its second birthday. There were three platforms to represent the branches in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Berwick-on-Tweed. Many Baillies and Councillors were amongst the speakers. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, the founder and president, spoke from each platform.

CONSUMPTION in the SCHOOLS.

Dear Editor,—Your people in the E.L.F.S., are, I know, strong on the question of saving the lives of the children. Therefore I am going to appeal to them to keep up the propaganda on behalf of the consumptive children in our public elementary schools all over the country.

In the first place your readers must remember that consumption is a curable infectious disease due to poverty and overcrowding—and being so deadly in its character it is often spoken of as the Great White Scourge.

A few years ago when Mr. Runciman was Minister of Education, he said that one to four per cent. of the children in our schools suffered from tuberculosis (that is consumption) "easily recognisable." Various official figures have been given since that time; none however have gone further in *understating* the facts than one per cent. Now as we have 6,000,000 children in our public elementary schools, those figures mean that we have at least 60,000 elementary school children suffering from a curable, infectious disease, which medical science has taught us can be wiped out.

The only effective treatment for consumption is to put the patient in pure air, away from slums, and to give abundant good food, with carefully regulated rest and exercise.

In Germany many years ago the authorities established open-air recovery schools for consumptive school children. I once visited one of these schools which was in a pine forest at Charlottenburg. In 1907 I persuaded the Woolwich Co-operators to lend their recreation ground to the L.C.C. for an experiment as an open-air recovery school. "Now," I thought, "we shall go ahead, and have dozens of such schools for the consumptive school children in London, and then hundreds more in various parts of the country." Well this year we have accommodation in London for barely 200 children in open-air schools, although on the basis of one per cent. mentioned above, we need accommodation in open-air recovery schools for at least 6,000 to 7,000 London consumptive children. These children are now in class-rooms becoming worse themselves, and in many cases being a danger of infection to other children.

In every school there should be a physical health register, which should shew at a glance how many children in a given class-room were found to be suffering from consumption; and no parents should allow their children to take their places in any class-room unless the register shews that it has a clean bill of health.

The E.L.F.S. should invite medical men and women to discuss this matter with them. They should above all invite L.C.C. members to discuss it, and they should ask those members to show cause why that public body, being responsible for London's children, does not set to work and establish on the outskirts of London—a sufficient number of scientifically organised open-air recovery schools for consumptive children? And please note, those schools must be on healthy sites, away from slums. The children can be conveyed to them in motor buses, trams, taxi-cabs and motor cars, which the Government can "commandeer" for the purpose. Back-yards in slums covered over with canvas are no good for the treatment of consumptive children.

Yours etc.,

M. Bridges Adams.

CHILD LABOUR.

In the House of Commons, on July 22nd, Mr. Jowett asked the President of the Board of Education to pass a short Bill ensuring proper remuneration, hours of labour, and general employment for children exempted from school to work for wages. Mr. Herbert Lewis replied that a circular had been sent round to all local education authorities to that effect, and that the Government were relying on the local authorities' sense of duty.

How wrong it is to leave the conditions of the children thus to chance, and how imperative it is that the Government should shoulder its responsibility may be judged from the following cases:—

In one case, at Kingston, a child of seven and a-half years worked from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. every week-day, and from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Sundays—in all 13½ hours—for a pittance of 6d. a per week.

Another boy of nine worked from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. every day of the week, half an hour in the middle of each week-day, and from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. on Sundays—15 hours altogether—for 2s. a week.

The Labour War Emergency Committee, publishes the following cases of child labour, particulars of which they have obtained from branches of the Agricultural Labourers and Rural Workers Union:—

1. Pitsford, Northants. Age 13, July 8th, 1915. Wages, 4s. a week. Hours, 10½ per day. Kind of work done in week ending May 22nd: Sunday, scaring birds; Monday, thistle spudding; Tuesday, carting manure; Wednesday, horse hoeing; Thursday, carting manure; Friday, horse hoeing; Saturday, carting manure.
2. Woodton, Norfolk and Suffolk Boundary. Age 12. Wages, 3s. per week. Hours of work, 9. No Sunday work mentioned.
3. Little Snoring, Hempton. Age 13, July, 1915. Wages, 4s. a week. Hours, 9 per day. No Sunday work. In week ending May 21st, work was as follows: Monday, keeping cows on roads; Tuesday, docking with men; Wednesday, digging up docks with men; Thursday, cowkeeping, weeding; Friday, cowkeeping; Saturday, cleaning out cow boxes. In this village two men were then out of work.
4. Alby, Aldborough. Age 12. Wages, 3s. 6d. per week. Hours, 10 per day. Kind of work, labouring on farm.
5. New Barn, Chitterne, Wilts. Age 11. Wages, 4s. a week. Hours, 10 per day. Work is with horses. This boy was only in Standard I., and "no bigger than a whippet."
6. Townsend, Chitterne, Wilts. Age 12. Wages, 7s. 6d. Hours, 10 per day. Sunday morning helps with the horse, and all the week helps with horses, plough, rolling, etc. This boy was only in Standard II.

Owing to the alleged shortage of labour, the Home Office has given permission for boys between the ages of 13 and 14 to be employed at night in the Black Country glass trade until the end of the War.

At a meeting of the Kent Education Committee it was stated that, at the end of June, nearly 1,300 school children had been released from attendance for employment in agricultural pursuits.

In the House of Commons, on July 20th, Mr. Higham drew attention to a most wasteful rule practised by the War Office. In the case of material supplied by a certain firm, he stated that if all empties were returned, £120 or £150 would have been deducted from the account which the War Office had to pay; but only £5 worth of empties was returned. In sending in the bill the firm deducted this £5 from the sum due; but the War Office sent back the bill with a request that the gross weight should be charged for. To the firm's explanation that they had given credit for returned empties, the War Office made no reply, but regardless of the £5 which the firm meant to deduct, sent a cheque, for the goods *in gross!*

Another firm supplied from 80,000 to 100,000 cases of jam, and requested empties to be returned, because they urged that pottery firms have difficulty in getting both clay and labour to make enough jars, and there is a shortage of wooden cases. The value of the empties was about £3,000, yet they were not returned. Mr. Higham stated that such empties are thrown on waste heaps at the various camps.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

It is only a fortnight between now and our Demonstration on August 15th. We must all work very hard indeed, and make this a great success. All should tell their friends, so that the importance of coming in the procession should be widely known.

We are having our Club again now on Mondays and Fridays. This Sunday there will be no meetings owing to the holidays, but after that our out-door campaign will be resumed. We want more paper sellers and canvassers.

Dreadnought sales, week ending July 24th—799. Miss O'Brien 327, Mrs. Crabb 90, Mrs. Greer 56, Mr. & Mrs. Payne 50, Mrs. Farrall 20, A member 34, Special Meetings 178.

BROMLEY.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. MANTLE, 53 St. Leonard Street.

A good meeting was held at 53 St. Leonard Street on Thursday last, and all members were glad to hear Mrs. Walshe again. We would still like to see these meetings better attended, so keep Thursday night free and bring friends along with you, as a lot can be learned at these meetings. Any member who has not paid her monthly subscriptions should please send it along before the end of the month.

We should also like each member to take two copies at least of the *Dreadnought* every week, and sell the extra one to a friend. Every working woman should read our paper. Bromley sales must go up. Now members do your best!

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

The General Meeting held here last Monday was well attended. The deputation to Mr. Lloyd George was elected, and the National Register was discussed. The demonstration was quite a success, and members and friends are thanked who helped to make it so. Carrying banners was hard work in the wind, but some carried them from start to finish. The next demonstration will be on Sunday, August 15th, when we shall march to Trafalgar Square. Tell your friends about it, and get as many helpers as you can, as some of our members are having their summer holidays, and we shall want as much help as we can get—collectors, paper-sellers and banner bearers. Please give your names in.

Good meetings in Chrisp Street, Wednesday evening, at Piggott Street, Friday evening, and at 20 Railway Street, on Friday afternoon. After this meeting, some of our babies had their photographs taken by Miss Smyth, and we hope to see this in the *Dreadnought*. At the Dock Gates on Sunday, 94 papers were sold at a very good meeting. Miss Pankhurst spoke, and Mr. Johnson took the chair. Miss O'Brien sold 39 of these papers, our best thanks to her.

Papers sold week ending July 25th—293. Distributed over 500. Mrs. Schlette 30, Stall 54, Miss K. Lagsding sold 50 and 30 on two occasions when report was not inserted. Collected.—Mrs. Neuss in Restaurant, 3s. 2½d.; Nurse Connolly, among patients, 3s. 10d.; Mrs. Bird, at Greens, 8s. 6½d.; Mrs. Drake, at Cubitt Town, 12s. 7d.; Mrs. Payton, in self-denial box, 2s. 10½d. We have plenty more boxes. Won't you take one?

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE (Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Will members please note that for the present we shall discontinue our meeting on Tuesday afternoon, as so many speakers are on holiday, and we must do more outdoor work for the Demonstration. We had a very pleasant surprise last Thursday evening, Miss Pankhurst paid us an unexpected visit, and held a speakers' class. Mrs. Griffiths and Mrs. Waller were specially fluent, and we hope they will be prepared to speak at Lesbia Road next Monday.

A splendid dinner hour meeting was held last Saturday in Darnley Road, Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker. Forty-four papers sold. We need a paper seller here every Saturday from 12.45 to 1.30 p.m. Will someone volunteer to do it regularly? Over 200 papers were sold last week, but we can double this if we have more paper sellers.

We are having a demonstration in Trafalgar Square, on Sunday, August 15th. Hackney members worked well last time. Please see that you get your bills early.

Mrs. West is to be congratulated on her splendid work. She has only been a member a short time, but already she has made 12 new members, and is doing very well with the paper. Who else will get 12 new recruits?

Collected—Mrs. Fix 5s. 6d., Mrs. King and Mrs. Walters per Miss Page 1s., Miss Bennett 2s. 2½d., Miss Manicom 7s. 5d.

Papers sold—Miss Bennett 98, Miss Sands 16. Total—203. Distributed—50. This is a great improvement!

SOUTH WEST HAM.

55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

The outdoor meetings before the procession were a great success, and over 200 *Dreadnoughts* were sold. All members are thanked who helped by canvassing, collecting, chalking, billing and in other ways. We must now work hard for the great procession and demonstration on August 15th.

On Thursday, our speaker was prevented from coming by the rain, but we hope to have Mrs. McLeod with us soon. On Friday, Miss Somers spoke at Beckton Road, and 21 papers were sold; and on Saturday, at White House, eight papers were sold.

Mrs. Mears is thanked for collecting for Milk Fund, and she would like some member to meet her, every Friday, at the corner of Beckton Road, at 8 o'clock, to help with paper selling.

Dreadnoughts sold last week.—204.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BALCHIN, 39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

This branch was very well represented at the Demonstration on Tuesday night, some members joining in the procession and others meeting it at Westminster Hall. One new member has been added to the Branch, and two new regular subscribers to the *Dreadnought*. Thanks are due to Miss Worall for promising to try and get the *Dreadnought* into the Southwark Library. The outing for this branch has been fixed for Saturday, August 14th. Will those who are joining this, please note as to route i.e. Catford car to Southend terminus, pick up 47 bus there to Bromley Market Place. The Westerham bus starts from Bromley South Station, and members and friends should be ready for it not later than 1.45 p.m.: this is important, as these buses run very infrequently and fill up quickly. Take ticket to Black Horse. Tea, 5 o'clock at "Good Luck" bungalow, Sutherland Avenue, Biggin Hill.

Members are urged to show up in good numbers at the Demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, August 15th.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT, c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

A well-attended public meeting was held in Highbury Hall on Tuesday, at which the Rev. Cyril Isherwood and Mr. Franklin gave fine speeches. A resolution was carried unanimously, protesting against the National Register, and calling upon the Government to make itself National in reality, as well as in name, by passing into law, this Session, a measure enfranchising women on the same terms as men.

A very enthusiastic demonstration was held in Finsbury Park on Sunday, July 18th.

Several of our members supported the East End Procession to Parliament on Tuesday, July 20th.

THE SONG OF THE SHIRT.

Tom Hood's "Song of the Shirt" should apply no more, for the Shirt Making Trade Board has fixed minimum rates for the trade. But, alas! the Trade Board rates are but sweated rates after all.

Women of 21 years and over, who have completed one year's employment, are entitled now to claim that they shall be paid not less than a paltry 3½d. an hour, whether employed as homeworkers or in the factory.

Women of 21 years and over, who have not completed one year's employment in the trade, can only claim for the first three months 6s. 9d., for the second three months 8s. 4d., for the third three months 10s. 11d., and for the fourth three months 12s. 6d.—truly miserable rates.

Girls under 21 are able to claim as follows:—

	WAGES PER WEEK. 14 and under 15	15 and under 16	16 and under 21
During first six months' employment	3 0	3 8	5 2
Do. second	4 6	5 2	6 9
Do. third	6 0	7 3	9 5
Do. foutth	7 3	8 10	12 6
Do. fifth	8 4	10 11	—
Do. sixth	9 5	12 6	—
Do. seventh... ...	11 5	—	—
Do. eighth	12 6	—	—

No girl under 18 is given power to claim as a right that 3½d. per hour minimum.

For those who are registered as learners, the following conditions apply:—

A girl who entered the trade under 15 and who has completed not less than three years employment, may claim 3½d. an hour when she is 18. A girl who began at 15 and has worked two years, may claim 3½d. an hour when she is 18. A girl between 16 and 21 may claim the 3½d. rate after two years. A woman who began the work at 21 years or more, can claim 3½d. an hour after one year.

Miserably low as the rates are, employers will yet be found who are not willing to pay them. Workers should note that employers who pay less than these rates are liable to fines of £20 for each offence, and £5 for each day on which the offence is continued. Also, what is more important, perhaps, to the worker, the employer can be ordered by the Court to pay the difference between the wages that actually have been paid to the worker and the minimum rate of 3½d. an hour.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION, Registration Sunday, AUGUST 15th.

Processions from East & West London.

Bow procession, form up Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, 2.30. Start 3 sharp.

POPLAR procession form up East India Dock Gates, 2.30. Start 3 sharp. March to—

QUEEN'S HALL, Langham Place,

Meeting begins at 5 p.m.

URGENT GENERAL MEETING of East London Federation of the Suffragettes, Monday, August 9th, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow

A great Joint Demonstration, in which many societies will co-operate, is being arranged by the E.L.F.S., to take place on Registration Sunday, August 15th, when the following resolutions will be moved:—

That this meeting declares that the safeguards against undue exploitation of the workers, and especially of the working women, by private employers, which are contained in the Munitions Act, are wholly inadequate to justify the degree of coercion which may already be applied to the workers under the Munitions Act, and the National Register Act, to say nothing of a more general and extended form of compulsory service; and that the Munitions Act does not bear out the promise made that armament manufacturers should not make increased War profits; and demands:—

(1) That women employed on War service shall receive the same rates of pay, whether by time or piece, as the men whom they may replace, and that they shall in no case be employed on Government work, however unskilled, at a lower rate than 5d. an hour.

(2) That Government action shall be taken to keep down the cost of living, and that Government departments and Arbitration Courts shall take the cost of living into consideration in fixing rates of wages.

(3) That women need the Vote to protect their homes and wages.

That in view of the deputation of bankers and others to the Prime Minister, putting forward various dangerously reactionary proposals, and in view of the composition of the Government Committee on economy, which largely consists of those who formed part of that deputation.

This meeting protests:

(1) Against any attempt to tax wages.

(2) Against any further taxation of the necessaries of life.

(3) Against any attempt to reduce expenditure on old age pensions, public health work, housing, or educational activities, and calls upon the Government to turn instead to the great landed and capitalist monopolies, and to take control of the National mineral and other resources of the country, and thus obviate the need for further taxation of the people.

A conference in which all the organisations co-operating, will be asked to take part, will be held on Sunday, August 8th, at the Chandos Hall, Chandos Street, Strand, at 11.30 a.m.

Mrs. McCheyne and Mrs. Mantle have together carried on, in the most splendid way, the work of our Bromley Office and Baby Clinic at 53 St. Leonard Street, ever since these were started. Now we regret to announce that Mrs. McCheyne is compelled to relinquish her work there as she is obliged to leave the district.

All the E.L.F.S. members know Mrs. McCheyne, for she was one of our first recruits in East London, and has always been one of our hardest workers, having served on the E.L.F.S. Social Committees, and in many other ways, as well as being Joint Hon. Sec. in Bromley.

We all thank her and hope that we shall still see her from time to time.

But now Mrs. Mantle will be needing more help.—Members, see that she gets it!

Has anyone a bath-chair for sale?—Box 100.

HELP THE BABIES' FUND.

One of our collectors writes:—"This morning, when I was standing outside St. Pancras, two poor little girls with torn dirty dresses came along and read my placard. They evidently were discussing it, for one said: 'No, she doesn't want a farthing;' then they asked me if I would take a farthing, which, of course, I did."

Who will take a collecting box in aid of the Babies' Milk?

A correspondent writes:—"Is there anything I can do to help? We lost our own boy of six months in February, a lovely child, through Tuberculosis. I need not say that this gives us an additional earnest desire to help in this direction."

"Enclosed please find 1s. 2d., which has been collected by a little girl of five years. She has done it quite on her own initiative, because she was so anxious to do something for the 'Babies in the East End.' Her name is Gwladus Llewhellin."

"I have much pleasure in sending £2 to your Baby Clinic and Milk House. I consider your work is of vital importance to the Nation, and I wish it every success."

URGENT NURSERY WANTS.

Lots of safety pins; kitchen table; some big saucepans; more bibs and feeders; more small wooden chairs for children; lots of babies' napkins; more cradles; more cots; a nursery cupboard; more stretcher beds for children of three to five years; a fender; a boiler for clothes (gas); lots of children's socks.

HELP THIS LITTLE GIRL.

A correspondent from one of the Care Committees, writes:

P—— S—— is a weak nervous child of very respectable parents. I have had to send her to "The London" more than once. The doctor has reported that what she needs most is country air. If your friends could help it would be a great service for the girl who will be 14 in August. Two or three weeks now might set her up for the work she must soon engage in.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Collection Central Hall, Westminster 2.19.7, R. H. Pott, Esq., (for DREADNOUGHT Fund) 1.0.0, members of Fulham and Putney W.S.P.U. 17.6, Mrs. Armes 10.0, Miss G. Tollemache (DREADNOUGHT Fund) 10.0, Tom Norris, Esq. (5.0 monthly) 8.0, L.E. 5.0, Misses Mardon (for DREADNOUGHT Fund) 5.0, Mrs. Wheldon 2.0, Anon (sale of badges) collection Barking Road 1.1½, J. W. Hunter Esq, 1.0, Mrs. Greer (farthing collection) 1.0, collection Hackney 1.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—London office staff of Armour & Co., Ltd., per H. W. Braithwaite, Esq. 6.12.0, Mrs. Richardson Kuhlmann 5.0.0, Miss M O'Brien 3.10.0, W. A. Sharpe Esq, 2.2.0, Toolroom, etc., London Small Arms 1.11.11, Misses Smith (10.0 monthly) 1.10.0, Mrs. Douglas Hamilton 1.10.0, Miss D. S. Palmer 1.1.0, Miss Allan 1.0.0, per Mrs. Spencer 1.0.0, Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett (monthly) 1.0.0, Mrs. Richmond (5.0 weekly) 1.0.0, "E" 13.0, Mrs. Gow 10.0, Miss C. M. Richardson 10.0, Lady Maxwell 10.0, Mrs. Rintoul 10.0, Miss I. V. Yeoman (monthly) 10.0, Miss Maud Rich 10.0, Mrs. Murray 10 0, Miss Fox 8.0, Miss M. E. Mends 8.0, Mrs. Garner 7.6, Miss M. Osmond 7.0, Employees of Ross, Ltd, per Miss Young 7.0, Anon 5.6, Mrs. Bayne 5.0, Anon (sale of eggs) 5.0, Miss K. Broadhurst 3.0, a Cornish Girl 2.6, Miss M. L. Parr 2.6, Mrs. Simpson (weekly) 2.6, Mrs. Manning Prentice 2.6, Rev. F. Hawkinson 2 0½, Anon (sale of eggs) 1.0, Miss Balchin 1.0, Ridley Thornton Esq, 1.0, Mrs. King and Mrs. Walters 1.0.

COLLECTIONS.—Mrs. Crabb 1.3.5½, Miss Fox 19.2, Miss Magill 12.6½, Miss Stirk 7.9, Miss Manicom 7.5, Miss Bennett 6.6½, Miss Fix 5.6, Mrs. White 4.3, Mrs. Pascoe 3.6½, Miss Bennett 2.2½, Mrs. Mears 2.0½, Miss O'Brien 0.5.

CLOTHING, ETC.—Anon, Miss D. Smith, Anon, Miss N. Bevington, Anon, Misses N. and E. Fallow, Anon, Mrs. Crosland Taylor, Mrs. Nelson, Anon, Mrs. Leveson Gower, Mrs. Powell (eggs).

Mothers and children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at:—

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway Street, Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's Street, Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 55 Fife Road, Canning Town,

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